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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

SEP 26 2006

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), the 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group represented by R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> is a hydrocarbon ring group.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), the 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group represented by R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> is an aromatic hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), one of R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> is a hydrogen atom and the other one is a 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group.

**Claim 5 (Original)**

The photothermographic material of claim 4, wherein said the other one is a 5- or 6-membered non-aromatic ring group.

**Claim 6 (Original)**

The photothermographic material of claim 4, wherein said the other one is a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group.

**Claim 7 (Previously Presented)**

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), R<sub>13</sub> is a tertiary alkyl group.

**Claim 8 (Previously Presented)**

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), R<sub>14</sub> is a primary alkyl group.

**Claim 9 (Previously Presented)**

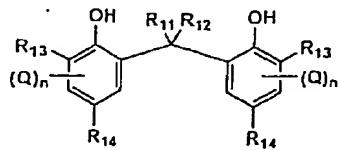
The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), one of R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> is a hydrogen atom and the other one is a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group, R<sub>13</sub> is t-butyl or 1-methylcyclohexyl, and R<sub>14</sub> is methyl or 2-hydroxyethyl.

**Claims 10-14 (Cancelled)**

## Claim 15 (Currently Amended)

A silver salt photothermographic material comprising on a support a light-sensitive layer comprising a light-sensitive emulsion containing light-insensitive organic silver salt grains of behenic acid an aliphatic carboxylic acid having 10 to 30 carbon atoms and light-sensitive silver halide grains, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder, wherein the reducing agent for silver ions is a compound represented by the following formula (1) and the light-sensitive layer further comprises a hindered phenol which is a compound represented by the following formula (3), and wherein a molar ratio of the compound represented by formula (3) to the compound represented by formula (1) is 0.001 to 0.2:

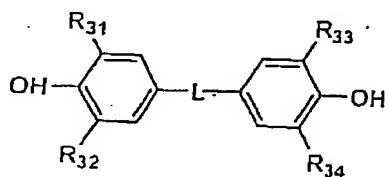
formula (1)



wherein R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are each a hydrogen atom, a 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group, provided that R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are not hydrogen atoms at the same time; R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl

group, a cycloalkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; Q is a group capable of being substituted on a benzene ring; n is 0, 1 or 2;

formula (3)



wherein R<sub>31</sub>, R<sub>32</sub>, R<sub>33</sub> and R<sub>34</sub> are each an alkyl or cycloalkyl group; L is -S- or -CHR<sub>35</sub>, in which R<sub>35</sub> is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or cycloalkyl group.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein at least one of R<sub>31</sub>, R<sub>32</sub>, R<sub>33</sub> and R<sub>34</sub> is a group selected from the group consisting of iso-propyl, iso-nonyl, t-butyl, t-amyl, t-octyl, cyclohexyl, 1-methyl-cyclohexyl and adamantly.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein R<sub>35</sub> is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 18 (Canceled)